

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOH/EHA AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING VARIANCE FOR ABANDONMENT OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (UST) IN PLACE

These procedures implement the requirements of the D.C. Underground Storage Tank Regulations and the BOCA Fire Prevention Code for obtaining a variance to abandon tanks in place based upon a claim that removal will cause substantial structural damage to buildings and improvements.

I. NOTIFICATION/PERMITTING PROCEDURES

The owner/operator must obtain written certification from a DC registered professional structural engineer, stating that in his/her professional opinion the tank removal will undermine the structural integrity of the building(s) or other improvements. This certification (accompanied with other pertinent documentation i.e., photographs, UST installation plans or diagrams) must be attached to a request for variance submitted to the District of Columbia Environmental Health Administration (EHA), Underground Storage Tank (UST) Division and DC Fire Prevention Bureau (DCFPB) 14 days in advance of performing the work.

The owner/operator must then contact DCFPB, on 202-727-1614, and the UST Office, on 202-645-6080, to schedule an on-site inspection by representatives from both departments during this 14 day period and obtain conditional approval for UST abandonment. Note that this approval is contingent upon compliance with requirements for the environmental investigation.

The owner/operator must obtain a standard construction permit to conduct the Closure Assessment and a separate construction permit for UST abandonment from Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Permit Processing Division located at 614 H Street, NW, 2nd floor and obtain the final abandonment approval (sign off) from EHA and DCFPB.

II. CLOSURE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The owner/operator must 1) conduct a UST interior inspection, 2) collect soil samples from underneath the tank (the number and location of samples will be determined by EHA representative) and/or a Site Assessment (soil borings around the tank) under EHA oversight. The owner/operator is required to submit a Scope of Work for these activities. Based on the result of this investigation, EHA will direct the owner/operator if further actions are required.

III. ABANDONMENT PRACTICES

Forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the abandonment, the owner/operator must notify the DCFPB and the UST Division to arrange for both representatives to be on-site.

The contractor must follow standard tank abandonment procedures and safety practices as indicated in the American Petroleum Institute Publications API 1604 or 2202, or the BOCA Fire Prevention Code.

Within fourteen (14) days after UST abandonment, the owner/operator must submit an EPA UST Notification Form and Closure report to the EHA/UST Division.